



ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

LESSON 1

WISDOM COMES FROM GOD

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Source of Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1

GOD'S BIG STORY: God, who's the source of all wisdom, calls us to live wisely. In the book of Proverbs, God invites us to become wise, to learn His ways, and to walk in His ways.

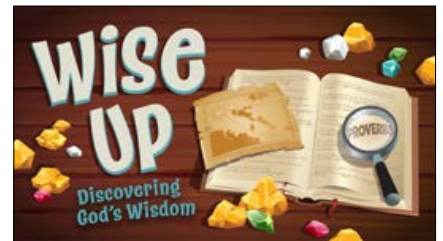
WORD OF WONDER: Take hold of my words with all your heart. Keep my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom, and get understanding. Don't forget my words or turn away from them. —Proverbs 4:4b–5

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Welcome Question: How would you explain the word *wisdom* to a friend?
- Curiosity Questions
- Object Lesson: Coin Flip Wisdom
- In Awe of God's Wonder
- Word of Wonder: Proverbs 4:4b–5
- Word of Wonder Activity
- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time
- Responding in Worship: What Wisdom Looks Like



[Wise Up Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Source of Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1

WONDER TRUTH: Proverbs 4:4b–5

Read Proverbs 1:20–23. These words give me hope. In a world swirling with loud ideas, unfiltered thoughts, and countless suggestions, the search for wisdom can feel daunting. But wisdom isn't locked away in a safety deposit box somewhere. It's not carrying on in the VIP lounge of some exclusive club. No, it's "out in the open" (Proverbs 1:20). It's available. It's ours if we'll take it.

It begins with God Himself. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7, NIV). God is a giver. When we seek Him with reverence and respect, He delights in giving us knowledge and understanding to act rightly. He doesn't dangle the carrot just to yank it away.

Do you believe that? I do, but sometimes I forget. Sometimes I think wisdom means using fancier words, listening to better podcasts, or quoting song lyrics I don't really understand. (Shh, don't tell anyone!) But wisdom actually means a deep, abiding fellowship with God. It comes through prayerful obedience. A life marinated in God's Word. God is the source of wisdom!

So, what kind of life are you leading? Is it a life that acknowledges God—a life of awe and wonder? Wisdom is out there, not tucked away in some back alley. It's ours if we'll take it. Time to wise up!

—**Michael Rade**

Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Most of the book of Proverbs is attributed to King Solomon, David's son (Proverbs 1:1). When God appeared to Solomon and told him to ask for anything he wished, Solomon asked for wisdom, which God was glad to give (1 Kings 3:1–15). These proverbs express that wisdom.

WHAT?

Proverbs is written “for gaining wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:2, NIV). It says that all knowledge and wisdom begin with “fear of the LORD” (Proverbs 1:7, NIV), or as the NIV puts it, “respect for the LORD.” Everything good and wise comes from God.

WHERE?

These proverbs address the youth—especially young men—living in the land of Israel. The instructions are written from a father to a son, but a mother is sometimes included as well (Proverbs 23:22–25). This wisdom came from the royal courts of Israel, where Solomon ruled.

WHEN?

Solomon might have lived in the 900s BC. His proverbs fit with the structure and content of wisdom literature from the ancient Near East. There are similar collections of sayings from Egypt and Mesopotamia.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

If all wisdom comes from the one true God, we expect God's Son to be a revealer of wisdom. Sure enough, the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:19 led many early Christians to view Him as the embodiment of God's wisdom (compare 1 Corinthians 1:24).

Small Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Is the Source of Wisdom

SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 1

WORD OF WONDER: Proverbs 4:4b-5

Pre-Service (15–20 min)

RESOURCES: [Coloring Page](#)

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have play stations with various board games, activities, or use games from the extra Games & Activities Guide to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them!

Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Allow quieter kids who don't engage with the board games to color. Involve them in the curiosity questions.

While kids are playing in their opening activity groups..

Pose the following “I’m curious” questions. Say “I’m curious...” before each question and give kids a chance to think about and answer each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

- **Would you rather be the wisest person in the world or the richest person in the world? Why?**
- **If all wisdom comes from God, and He wants us to make wise choices, why do you think He doesn't just give us a rule book telling us exactly what to do in every situation?**

Leader Tip: When asking kids for definition, don't judge what kids say. Instead of telling one kid, “Good answer” and not commenting when another kid tries to define a word, simply say, “Thank you” to all kids who risk answering aloud.

Small Group Begins: Welcome Question 2–3 min

SUPPLIES: whiteboard, poster paper, or butcher paper, writing utensils

As kids arrive, invite them to write/draw the answer to the Welcome Question:

“How would you explain the word wisdom to a friend?” Set out sheets of paper and colored pencils.

Right at your service time, move into Small Group time by sharing your own answers and allowing kids to talk about their answers.

Small Group Discussion: Younger Kids 5–8 min

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and help them find Proverbs 1. Explain that Proverbs is near the very middle of their Bibles, following Psalms, and is packed with wise, godly advice. Encourage adult volunteers to help kids find the passage.

Read Proverbs 1:1–9 aloud. Instruct kids to hold their thumbs up when they hear words "wise," "wisely," or "wisdom."

- **The book of Proverbs is what kind of writing?** (wisdom writing) **Where does wisdom come from?**
- **Solomon says that these proverbs “lead to what is right and honest and fair”** (Proverbs 1:3). **What do you think is the first step in seeking wisdom?**
- **Why do you think keeping God’s commands is so important?**
- **Why is wisdom so important? What does it do for us?**
- **When was a time you didn’t follow wisdom at home or school? What happened?**
- **When was a time you used wisdom? What happened?**
- **If you have trouble deciding the right thing to do, who besides God and your parents might you ask for advice? Why that person?**

"God is the source of wisdom. The Holy Spirit helps us to see God’s wisdom in the Bible, in how people who love God live, and in wise words from others. Let’s thank God for helping us grow in wisdom!"

Prayer Time: Younger Kids

Invite kids to form a circle and share prayer requests and praises. Explain that, together, you’ll pray for each person in the circle. Walk around the outside of the circle, pausing behind each child and saying, “God, thank You for helping ____ (insert name) grow in wisdom.” When you’ve gone around the circle, close with a prayer of praise for God’s goodness.

Leader Tip: Proverbs 1:7 is often translated with the words “fear of the Lord.” The underlying word for fear can convey more than simple terror; it can also mean awe and reverence. There’s perhaps room for any of these interpretations, but be sure to help kids see that they don’t need to be scared of God, their loving heavenly Father.

Small Group Discussion: Older Kids 8–12 min

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Invite kids to grab their Bibles, and find Proverbs 1. Explain that Proverbs is near the very middle of their Bibles, following Psalms, and is packed with wise, godly advice. Encourage adult volunteers to help kids find the passage.

Give a brief overview of the history and context using the info on page 3 of this guide.

Invite a volunteer to read Proverbs 1:1–9, 20–23 aloud. Ask kids to pay special attention to any repeating words.

- **Solomon says that these proverbs, “lead to what is right and honest and fair” (Proverbs 1:3). What do you think is the first step in seeking wisdom?**
- **Where does wisdom come from? What do you think the difference is between wisdom and understanding?**
- **Why is wisdom so important? How does it change how we live?**
- **What did you learn about God and His wisdom from Proverbs 1?**
- **What has God done that shows His wisdom?**
- **What are ways you could get wisdom and understanding?**
- **When was a time you turned away from wisdom or a piece of advice, and you later regretted it?**
- **If you have trouble deciding the right thing to do, who besides God and your parents might you ask for advice? Why that person?**

"God is the source of wisdom, which means all wisdom begins with God and comes from God. The Holy Spirit helps us see God's wisdom in the Bible, in how people who love God live, and in wise words from others. Let's thank God for helping us grow in wisdom!"

Prayer Time: Older Kids

Invite kids to form a circle and share prayer requests and praises. Explain that, together, you'll pray for each person in the circle. Walk around the outside of the circle, pausing behind each child and saying, "God, thank You for helping ____ (insert name) grow in wisdom." When you've gone around the circle, close with a prayer of praise for God's goodness.

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Older Kids – Notes Page

****Complete the Notes Page with kids. Helping them to fill out all of the spaces. This is an important way for parents to see what their kids are learning each way and have meaningful conversations at home!**

WORD OF WONDER

Take hold of my words with all your heart.
Keep my commands, and you will live. Get wisdom,
and get understanding. Don't forget my words or
turn away from them.

—Proverbs 4:4b–5 (NIRV)

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

"Our Word of Wonder is Proverbs 4:4b–5. God is the source of wisdom and, in this passage, He tells us how to grab hold of that wisdom and live in a way that pleases Him. Let's read our Word of Wonder together!"

Explain that the “b” simply means we are starting at the second half of verse 4.) The words they'll read are meant for each person in the room, so have kids pair up, facing one another. In each pair, the kid who's oldest will read along with you first as his partner listens. Then read the passage aloud again, this time with the other partner joining you.

Leader Tip: For Younger Kids. If you have younger children or insecure readers, they can simply hold their Bibles, facing their partners, as those comfortable reading aloud do so.

Gather kids to talk about these questions:

- **What do you think it means to take hold of God's words with all your heart? What might that look and sound like?**
- **God is the source of wisdom, and He offers it to us. What gets in the way of your knowing and remembering God's wise commands?**

Word of Wonder Activity

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Ask kids to open their Bibles and read Proverbs 4:4b–5 with you. (Explain that the “b” simply means we are starting at the second half of verse 4.) Now, invite kids to stand and practice repeating each sentence or phrase of the Word of Wonder while facing a different direction. Kids will say the first sentence or phrase while facing you, then rotate a quarter turn to the right, where they'll say the second sentence or phrase. Another quarter turn so they're facing away from you, and they'll say the third sentence or phrase; then another quarter turn to say the fourth. Then, they'll face you again and start over. Make several more cycles, and then slowly speed up reading the lines together to send kids spinning more quickly.

Break up the passage as follows:

Take hold of my words with all your heart; / keep my commands, and you will live. / Get wisdom, get understanding; / do not forget my words or turn away from them.

Proverbs 4:4b–5 (NIV)

Which of this passage's four parts stands out to you as the most interesting or important? Why?

Large Group!

Responding in Worship: What Wisdom Looks Like

SUPPLIES: paper or cardstock (1 sheet per kid), scissors (prep only), drawing utensils, tables (4, optional)

RESOURCES: [Wisdom Cards Sheet](#), [Wise Up Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Before you begin this activity, print the Wisdom Cards Sheet onto paper or cardstock, one copy per kid. Cut apart the cards, and separate each of the different types of cards into four stacks. Set out tables in different parts of the room, or simply designate four different spaces to serve as worship stations. Place one set of cards and drawing utensils at each station.



"We honor God when we don't just hear His wise words, but we also live by them. God invites us to become wise as we follow Him. He is the source of all wisdom! There are four stations set up in our room.

You will find Wisdom Cards at each station. Written on each card is a proverb—something wise and true from God's Word. When you arrive at a station, read a Wisdom Card and then draw on the card what it looks like to live out that wisdom at school, at home, while playing sports—wherever the Holy Spirit brings to your mind. Then, take the card with you when you go to another station; any cards you draw on are yours to keep. You don't have to go to all the stations—just visit them as you feel led and as time allows. If you have trouble reading the proverb, ask an older friend to read it to you." Allow kids time to visit the Wisdom Card stations.

For reference, here are the proverbs that are printed on the Wisdom Cards:

Card 1: A person with a bad temper stirs up conflict. But a person who is patient calms things down.

—Proverbs 15:1

Card 2: Walk with wise people and become wise. —Proverbs 13:20

Card 3: Kind words are like honey. —Proverbs 16:24

Card 4: Trust in the LORD with all your heart. —Proverbs 3:5

Leader Tip: Consider playing music in the background during this worship response time. Fade the music 60 seconds before you expect kids to return from the stations as a signal it's time to wrap up.

When kids gather back together, suggest they quietly sort through their cards and place the one on top that is most important to them. Then, as kids hold their cards, pray that God will give them (and you) wisdom to know how to live in a way that pleases and honors Him.

Instruct kids to place their cards in their Bibles or pockets to help the cards make it home.